

# Why the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is Important



The Child and Adult Care Food Program pays for nutritious meals and snacks for eligible children and elderly or disabled adults who are enrolled at participating child care centers, family day care homes, afterschool programs, Head Start programs, adult day care centers, and emergency shelters. CACFP regulations are issued by USDA under 7 CFR 226.

## Why CACFP is Important

The healthy nutrition standards for the meals and snacks that CACFP provides make a good program even better.

CACFP ensures that children:

- Receive a nutritious diet;
- Start good nutrition habits early in life;
- Grow healthy and strong; and
- Are prepared for school, ready to learn.

CACFP plays a vital role in improving the quality of child care and making it more affordable for many low-income families. CACFP resources and training supports communities, especially rural, by supporting child care.

More information about CACFP can be found at: [Child and Adult Care Food Program / Child Nutrition Programs / SDE \(idaho.gov\)](#)

## CACFP Economic Value

CACFP helps working families work.

CACFP funding supports the local economy by purchasing required healthy foods at the grocery stores and farmers' markets.

CACFP funding is a significant resource for supporting Child care providers, afterschool programs, emergency shelters and adult day care centers.

CACFP supports jobs in child care.



## Participation

In fiscal year 2021, Idaho provided meals to over 14,000 children per day.

Idaho CACFP provided over 3.5 million meals and snacks during fiscal year 2021.

### Participant Eligibility:

- Children age 12 and younger, migrant children age 15 and younger and persons with disabilities of any age are eligible to receive up to two meals and one snack daily at a day care home or center
- Afterschool meals and snacks are available to children through age 18.
- Emergency shelters may be reimbursed for up to three meals each day for resident children age 18 and younger.

## Reimbursement and Funding

In fiscal year 2021, USDA provided over \$4.8 million to providers in Idaho.

Family day care homes are reimbursed using a two-tiered system. Tier 1 covers homes in low-income areas, low-income providers, and children from low-income homes.

Child or adult day care centers receive payments based on the type of meal served and the income of the participant's family. Based on parental or participants income, meals are reimbursed as free, reduced-price or paid.

Head Start programs, afterschool programs in low income areas and emergency shelters are reimbursed at the free rate.

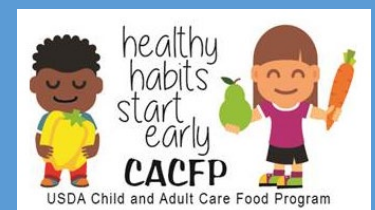
Yearly reimbursement can be found at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/CACFP/reimbursement-rates>

## Benefits

Participating programs provide meals according to the nutrition standards set by USDA ensuring that children and adults in care receive balanced, nutritious meals and snacks.

New research shows that CACFP reduces food insecurity, thus helping families protect children against hunger.

Research demonstrated CACFP 's clear role in helping to assure good nutrition and high quality, affordable child care. The program is a well-documented success.



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